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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred certain resolutions relating to the true policy of the war, and recommending to the President the issuance of a proclamation touching the free navigation of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and the opening of the market of the South to the inhabitants of the Northwestern States, upon certain terms and conditions, have had the same under consideration, and now report back said resolutions, with one or two slight amendments, and recommend that they be adopted. The expediency of conducting the war in which we are engaged with all possible activity, and of carrying that war into the enemy's country, so soon as the same shall be found practicable, is believed to be now universally admitted by all enlightened men who have given their attention to the subject. It is evident that we must rely alone upon our own energies for success in the struggle of arms which is now in progress. In the present condition of affairs it is quite manifest that in order to bring the sanguinary struggle in which we are engaged to an early termination, it will be necessary that every portion of our army should be kept in a state of constant readiness for active exertion; and that no opportunity should be neglected of striking the forces of the enemy, wherever to be found upon Southern soil, with that boldness and heroic energy which are so certain to secure to our arms the most signal success. It is now equally manifest that the enemy will never be willing to desist from the unjust and ferocious war which they are now waging, until the evils and inconveniences thereof shall have been brought home fully to themselves. When our valiant and disciplined armies (enhanced in numbers and in strength, as it is hoped they will shortly be,) shall have once found their way to the heart of the enemy's country, and have inflicted a just retaliation upon those who have so ruthlessly ravaged our territories, pillaged our towns, and desolated our homes, it is to be reasonably ex-

pected that even they will at last be able to discern the rank injustice and brutal cruelty which they have compelled us to experience, for the perpetration of which they have not been heretofore subjected to anything like adequate punishment.

Your committee are well satisfied that the issuance of such a proclamation by the President, as that described in the resolutions referred to them, at such time as he shall deem expedient, could not but be attended with the most salutary effects. It is an undoubted fact that the government at Washington, aided by unscrupulous local demagogues in the North-western States, has succeeded to a considerable extent in deluding the people of that region into a general belief that, should we succeed in our struggle for independence, it is the intention of the Government and people of the Confederate States to shut them out from the free navigation of the Mississippi river, and its great tributaries; and though the Provisional Congress of these States long ago emphatically negatived this idea, by well known acts of formal legislation, yet your committee is assured that the delusion on this subject still continues to exist among the people of the North-west, and that the gross misapprehension in regard to the intentions and policy of the Confederate States of America, thus engendered and kept in existence by wicked and designing men, has operated most effectively in prompting the people of the Northwestern States (so closely connected with the South heretofore, both by geographical and political ties,) to contribute freely both in men and money to the prosecution of a war which, if successful on the part of those with whom it has originated, would be eventually as disastrous in its effects to the people of the Northwestern States themselves as to those of the Confederate States of America. It is gratifying to discover that high-spirited and intelligent public men in several of the Northwestern States have, of late, become exceedingly active in their endeavors to discourage and suppress the ferocious war spirit heretofore raging among their fellow-citizens, and that their honest and patriotic efforts have been already attended with the most marked success. Such a proclamation as that recommended in the resolutions referred to this committee, it is confidently believed would have a tendency greatly to strengthen the efforts of the advocates of peace in the Northwestern States, be calculated to bring those States quickly into amicable relations with the States of the South, withdraw them ultimately altogether from their present injurious political connection with the States of the North and East, with which they have really so little in common, and thus enable us to dictate the terms of a just and honorable peace from the great commercial emporiums of that region through whose influence mainly has this wicked and unnatural war been thus far kept in progress.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

H. S. FOOTE, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That as the deluded Government at Washington still obstinately continues to refuse us peace, and is waging a ferocious and sanguinary war upon our soil, it is the evident policy of the Confed-

erate Government to invade the country of the enemy, so soon as it shall be practicable, with a view to obtaining complete "indemnity for the past and security for the future."

Resolved, That the President be requested, if consistent with his own views of propriety, at such time as he shall deem most appropriate, to address a formal proclamation to the inhabitants of the Northwestern States, based alike upon the former legislation of Congress and the existing state of public sentiment in the Confederate States at this moment, to guarantee, in the most effectual and satisfactory mode, the peaceful navigation of the Mississippi river and its tributaries in favor of the citizens of all said States, resident upon the borders of said rivers, who shall not be at war at the time with the Confederate States; and it is further requested of the President that he will also make known in said proclamation the willingness of the Government and people of the Confederate States to enter hereafter into a reciprocity commercial treaty or treaties with any one or more of them by means of which the markets of the South shall be at once opened to them upon the most liberal and equitable terms.

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